

## **REMARKS**

This amendment and response addresses the Office Action mailed April 5, 2004. In this amendment, claims 1, 5, 47 and 50 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of previously dependent claims. Claims 3, 4, 16-24, 29-46 and 48-49 are canceled. Claims 1-2, 5-15, 25-28, 47 and 50-51 are pending in this case.

In the Office Action, claims 23 and 24 were rejected under U.S. Patent No. 5,336,189 to Sealfon. Claims 1-3, 5 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,688,252 to Matsuda. Claims 1, 7-22, 47, 48 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,919,167 to Mulhauser. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections. However, in the interest of advancing prosecution, the rejected independent claims have either been canceled or amended to incorporate features from claims that were indicated to be objected to but allowable if written in independent form.

As a result, in the claims as pending, each independent claim includes a feature from a dependent claim that was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner or has already been indicated to be allowed over the prior art of record.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 4 and the intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 and dependent claims 2, and 5-15 are clearly in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 25 and dependent claims 26-28 were previously indicated to be allowed.

Independent claim 47 has been amended to incorporate the features of dependent claim 49 and intervening claim 48. Accordingly, claim 47 and dependent claims 50 and 51 are clearly in condition for allowance.


The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if such contact would be helpful in any way. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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